(c) the steps being taken by the Government to implement the recommendations of the Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b). A Study Group constituted by this Ministry in March, 1991 under the chairmanship of Sh. M.J. Pherwani has recommended the following financial instruments for consideration.

(i) Non-Voting Shares

(ii) Detacheable Equity Coupons/ Warrants.

(iii) Participating Preference Shares

(iv) Participaitng Debentures

(v) Convertible Debentures with Options

(vi) Third Party Convertibel Debentures

(vii) Mortgage Backed Securities

(viii) Convertible Debentures redeemable at premium

(ix) Debt for Equity Swap

(x) Zero Coupon Convertible Bonds

(c) It is too early to indicate the steps since decisions on the recommendations have not yet been taken.

[*English*]

Openig of New Branches of Insurance Companies in Andhra Pradesh

2560. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESHWARLU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria for opening of new branches of insurance companies;

(b) whether there is any proposal to open new branches of Insurance Companies in Andhra Pradesh during the 1991-92; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Population, potentiality of the area together with viability are the main criteria for opening of new offices of insurance Companies.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) During 1991-92, new branch offices in the districts of Rangareddy, Hyderabad, Mehboob Nagar, Vijayawada and Nizamabad by the subsidiaries of the GIC, are being proposed.

[*Translation*]

Fraud Cases in Banks

2561. SHRI JANARDAN MISRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of gangs committing frauds with banks have been identified during the last three months;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the States in which these gangs were active; and

(d) the action so far taken by the Government against these gangs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (d). Reserve Bank of India

has reported that in September, 1991 a fraud involving an amount of about Rs. 250 lakhs in different branches of UCO Bank was reported. On the basis of FIR lodged with the police, the police, have arrested an Officer of Kalol branch and a Clerk of Navrangpura branch of UCO Bank, the suspected mastermind and his accomplice. The Officer of the bank has been suspended from bank's service. The concerned Clerk was already under suspension for his involvement in another case of misappropriation. The bank has also requested the Central Bureau of Investigation for detailed investigation.

NTC Mills Running In loss

2562. SHRI YASHWANTRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of TEXTIELS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of N.T.C. miils which are running in heavy loss;

(b) whether the Government have taken any decision about the future of these mills; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTIELS (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT) : (a) During 1990-91, out of 122 mills in operation under NTC, only 40 mills made cash profits and the remaining incurred cash losses.

(b) to (c). In order to improve the performance of National Textile Corporation, various alternatives are under consideration, at various levels. However, no decision has been taken in this regard.

[English]

Export of Engineering Goods

2563. SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide adequate assistance and incentives to help promote the export of engineering goods; and

(b) if so, details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b). Government have already been providing adequate assistance and incentives to help promote the export of engineering goods. Some of the important incentives which were being given include grant of Cash Compensatory Support, provision of inputs for exports at international prices, supply of export finance at concessional rates, replenishment licence facility, import of capital goods at concess ornal rate for export production, warehousing facility for export to European countries, extension of lines of credit to various countries for importing Indian engining goods and market entry support which provides finance for the product liability insurance for export to developed markets.

While the scheme to provide cash Compensatory Support has been with drawn from 3.7.91, additional incentives have recently been made available for exports of engineering good and other items. These additional incentives include restructuting the replenishment scheme to provide for grant of Exim Scrips in place of replenishment licences at the uniform rate of 30% of f.o.b. value, grant of 10% additional Exim Scrips for exports of high technology engineering products and strengthening and streamlining of the advance licence system.

Gold Smuggling

2564. SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether smuggling of gold continues to be on the increase;